

## Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

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FOR HIRSCH

FOLLOWING REPEAT TEL AVIV 3534 ACTION SECSTATE INFO AMMAN CAIRO  
DAMASCUS JERUSALEM MAY 18.

QUOTE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, IS

SUBJECT: AN ASSESSMENT OF POSSIBLE COALITIONS

1. SPECULATION ON A FUTURE COALITION BEGAN AS SOON AS  
THE ELECTION TREND EMERGED EARLY THIS MORNING. WITHIN A FEW HOURS  
OF THE POLL'S CLOSING, LIKUD LEADER MENAHEM BEGIN PROPOSED IN WHAT  
APPEARED TO BE HIS VICTORY SPEECH A NATIONAL UNITY GOVERNMENT (NUG).  
EARLIER, THIS MORNING FORMER LIKUD PARTY HEAD ELIMELECH RIMALT  
EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT THE LIKUD WOULD GO BEYOND THE RELIGIOUS  
PARTIES AND SHLOMZION IN SEEKING COALITION PARTNERS. HE SAID THAT A  
COALITION OF JUST THESE PARTIES WOULD BE "ASYMMETRICAL" AND THAT  
THE DMC AND EVEN THE ALIGNMENT SHOULD BE BROUGHT INTO THE NEXT  
GOVERNMENT.

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2. ALTHOUGH A MAJORITY COALITION OF THE LIKUD, THE  
THREE RELIGIOUS PARTIES AND THE SHLOMZION MAY BE  
MATHEMATICALLY POSSIBLE, THE LIKUD IS EXPECTED TO  
MAKE STRONG EFFORTS TO FORM AS BROAD A COALITION AS POSSIBLE UNDER ITS

LEADERSHIP. HERUT LEADERS HAVE LONG SPOKEN OF A

NUG IN THE EVENT OF A LIKUD VICTORY AT THE POLLS. BEGIN WOULD WANT TO AVOID HEADING A GOVERNMENT REGARDED AS EXTREME RIGHT WING. RIMALT'S REMARKS PROBABLY REFLECT THE LIBERAL PARTY'S EVEN STRONGER PREFERENCE FOR A BROAD-BASED GOVERNMENT. IN ADDITION TO SHARING BEGIN'S AVERSION TO THE LABEL OF A REACTIONARY REGIME, THE LIBERALS WOULD BE UNCOMFORTABLE IN A GOVERNMENT IN WHICH THE NRP AND THE ULTRA-ORTHODOX FORCES WOULD HOLD THE BALANCE OF POWER. IN AN INTERVIEW TODAY, AGUDAH LEADER RABBI SHLOMO LORENCZ HAS LISTED THESE CONDITIONS FOR ENTERING A COALITION: CESSATION OF THE DRAFTING OF WOMEN INTO THE IDF; ABOLITION OF ABORTIONS AND POST MORTEMES; CHANGING THE LAW ON "WHO IS A JEW;" AND REVOKING PERMITS TO WORK ON THE SABBATH. (THESE ARE NOT LIKELY TO BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE LIBERAL PARTY WING OF LIKUD) NOR TO POTENTIAL NON-RELIGIOUS COALITION PARTNERS)

3. AT THE SAME TIME, YIGAL YADIN WAS QUOTED AS AGAIN DESCRIBING AS IMMUTABLE HIS PARTY'S SEVEN CONDITIONS FOR DMC PARTICIPATION IN A GOVERNMENT (TEL AVIV 3166). HE CALLED THEM PRINCIPLES WITHOUT WHICH DMC-DEMANDED CHANGES WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE. THE DMC, WHICH OFFICIALLY REGARDS RELIGION AS A MATTER OF CONSCIENCE AND WILL NOT DICTATE TO ITS MKS ON RELIGIOUS MATTERS, WOULD BE EVEN LESS CONGENIAL TO THE AGUDAH PARTIES THAN THE LIBERALS.

4. IF THERE ARE MAJOR OBSTACLES IN THE DMC JOINING A LIKUD-LED COALITION, THE PROBLEMS FOR THE ALIGNMENT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BECOMING PART OF SUCH A GOVERNMENT APPEAR EVEN GREATER. THE MOVE WOULD NOT ONLY DISSOLVE THE ALIGNMENT, IT COULD WELL SPLIT THE LABOR PARTY. MANY ACHDUT AVODAH STALWARTS, AS WELL AS DOVES THROUGHOUT THE REST OF THE PARTY, WOULD FIND SERVING IN A LIKUD-DOMINATED COALITION TOO MUCH TO SWALLOW. IN CONVERSATIONS WITH US THIS MORNING ALIGNMENT LEADERS USED SUCH TERMS AS "SUICIDAL" AND "HUMILIATING" IN DESCRIBING POSSIBLE ALIGNMENT PARTICIPATION IN A LIKUD COALITION. INDEED, MANY BELIEVE A PERIOD IN OPPOSITION COULD WELL GIVE THE PARTY ITS MUCH NEEDED REJUVENATION.

5. THERE IS WIDESPREAD FEELING WITHIN THE LABOR PARTY AND THE HISTADRUT THAT THE PARTY AND TRADE UNION MACHINERY HAS FAILED THEM AND NEEDS A THOROUGH OVERHAUL. SOME REMARKED THAT THE LABOR PARTY CONVENTION HAD BEEN DECEPTIVE; INSTEAD OF A DEMONSTRATION IN DEMOCRACY, IT WAS A GATHERING OF APPARATCHIKS WHO IN FACT REPRESENTED ONLY VERY NARROW BASE. WHEN THE

TIME CAME TO DELIVER, THEY FAILED.

6. THE OTHER HORN OF THE ALIGNMENT'S DILEMMA  
IS THE POSSIBILITY THAT IN OPPOSITION ITS STRENGTH  
COULD CONTINUE TO ERODE TO THE BENEFIT OF THE DMC.  
THE CONCERN IS THAT THE DMC'S POWER OF PATRONAGE  
SHOULD IT BE PART OF THE COALITION, WOULD BE CORROSIVE  
ON THE ALIGNMENT'S CONSTITUENCY. THIS EVEN MORE SO  
IF THE ALIGNMENT FAILS TO MAINTAIN ITS MAJORITY  
IN NEXT MONTH'S HISTRADUT ELECTION.

7. THE OUTLOOK IS THAT THE ALIGNMENT WILL RESIST  
BLANDISHMENTS TO JOINING A NUG AND PERHAPS TRY TO  
PREVENT THE LIKUD FROM FORMING A GOVERNMENT  
OR, MORE LIKELY, DO ITS BEST TO KEEP A LIKUD  
GOVERNMENT AS NARROW AS POSSIBLE. THESE EFFORTS  
WOULD BE PREDICATED ON THE HOPE THAT IN  
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ANOTHER EARLY ELECTION THE ALIGNMENT WOULD RECOUP AT  
LEAST PART OF ITS LOSSES. (TO MANY YESTERDAY'S LIKUD  
VICTORY REPRESENTED A PROTEST VOTE WHICH IS NOT LIKELY TO BE  
REPEATED UNLESS THE LIKUD CAN ACHIEVE POSITIVE  
RESULTS AND ESTABLISH A GOOD RECORD FOR ITSELF.) BY THE  
SAME TOKEN WE BELIEVE THAT THE LIKUD WILL PULL ALL STOPS  
TO HAMMER OUT A COALITION KNOWING THAT IT MAY NOT SOON  
HAVE A SECOND CHANCE TO PROVE ITS METTLE. WITH  
RETURNS STILL COMING IN, IT IS OUR ESTIMATE THAT THE  
LIKUD WILL BE ABLE TO FORM A GOVERNMENT EITHER WITH  
THE RELIGIOUS PARTIES AND ONE OR TWO SPLINTER  
PARTIES ALONE OR ONE THAT WOULD ALSO INCLUDE THE DMC,  
BUT THE PROCESS WILL PROBABLY REQUIRE SEVERAL WEEKS  
AT BEST.  
LEWIS UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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